

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13987

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJ: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. RE STATE 218360, PARA 6: WE HAVE AT LEAST SENT THE DEPARTMENT A REPLY TODAY TO THE QUERY ON FILIPPOV AND HOPE THAT IT WILL FILL THE BILL. THE DELAY, WHICH WE REGRET, HAS BEEN DUE TO THE FACT THAT HH HAS BEEN OUT OF HIS OFFICE. CLIFF CROSS FINALLY CALLED HIM AT HOME FOR THE INFO. HE ALSO PASSED ON LEN WILLEMS' HOME AND OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS.

2. DAO PROJECT - WE STRONGLY PREFER SHIPPING THE PACKAGES IN ONE OR SEVERAL AT A TIME AS REGULAR DIPLOMATIC POUCHES ON THE NORMAL COURIER RUNS. ALTHOUGH THE SOVIETS MAY SOON RECOGNIZE WHAT WE ARE DOING. THE SMALLER AMOUNTS WILL NOT BE AS OBIOUS OR BLATANT AS A SPECIAL FLIGHT. IF THE MATERIALS WERE SHIPPED IN STAGES BY POUCH, THEN IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO STORE THEM IN THE ATTIC AND COUD AVOID CONSPICUOUS OPERATIONS IN THE BACK COURTYARD WHICH WOULD INEVITABLY COME TO THE ATTENTION OF RESIDENTS OF THE EMBASSY, AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. ADDITIONALLY, USING THE REGULAR DIPLOMATIC POUCH SHOULD GIVE US MORE PROTECTION AGAINS PROBLEMS WITH SOVIET CUSTOMS. THE USE OF A SPECIAL SECTION OF A REGULAR PANAM FLIGHT OR A PANAM CHARTER FLIGHT, OF COURSE, PRESENTS A MUCH BIGGER TARGET. IN BOTH THESE CASES THE CARGO WOULD HAVE TO BE
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ACCOMPANIED BY DIPLOMATIC COURIERS. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS

FAIRLY SIMPLE FOR THE SOVIETS TO CAUSE DELAYS. THEY PROBABLY WOULD INSIST, AS THEY HAVE DONE IN THE PAST FOR SUPPORT FLIGHTS, THAT THE MATERIAL BE CONVEYED TO THE CUSTOMS WAREHOUSE AT THE AIRPORT, THE CONTAINERS COUNTED AND WEIGHED BEFORE RELEASE TO THE EMBASSY. DURING THIS OPERATION IT WOULD BE FAIRLY EASY TO DIVERT ONE OR MORE PACKAGES OR TO TAMPER WITH THEM. THERE IS NO NEED OF EXCUSES THAT THE SOVIETS COULD COME UP WITH TO DELAY THE HANDLING OF THIS MATERIAL, SUCH AS THE PROPER OFFICIAL IS SICK; THE CUSTOMS WAREHOUSE IS CLOSED FOR THE DAY FOR INVENTORY ETC. THEREFORE, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED WE STRONGLY URGE THE DEPARTMENT TO SHIP THE PACKAGES A FEW AT A TIME AS DIPLOMATIC POUCHES, WITH SEGMENTS STAGED IN ORDER OF INSTALLATION. IF FEASIBLE THIS WOULD UNQUESTIONABLY BE THE SAFEST AND MOST UNOBTRUSIVE PROCEDURE.

3. VISIT OF COCA-COLA CHAIRMAN AUSTIN HAS BEEN CANCELLED. IF YOU ARE IN CONTACT WITH FIRM, IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO KNOW WHY AND AT WHOSE INITIATIVE. (AUSTIN WAS TO SEE GVISHIANI, AND WE WONDER IF GVISHIANI IS CANCELLING HIS NEAR-TERM COMMITMENTS IN GENERAL. NOT IN THIS CONNECTION INFO FROM GERMAN SCIENCE COUNSELOR IN OUR CABLE ON KOSYGIN).

4. WE HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH STANCE AGRICULTURE IS TAKING ON SUNFLOWER/VEGETABLE OIL TEAM. WE ARE STILL EXPERIENCING SERIOUS PROBLEMS GETTING AGATTCHER TRAVEL APPROVED, WE ARE NOT GETTING MUCH ON INFORMATIONAL EXCHANGE COMMITMENTS, AND WE SEE NO REASON WHY WE SHOULD ACCEPT ANODYNE ITINERARIES FOR TEAM VISITS TO BOOT.
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